

# Solution to Review Problems for Midterm II

MATH 2850 – 004

- (1) (a) Change each of the following points from rectangular coordinates to cylindrical coordinates and spherical coordinates:

$$(2, -1, 2), (2, -2, -3).$$

(b) Convert the equation  $\cos(\phi) = \sin(\theta)$  into rectangular coordinates.

(c) Convert the equation  $r \cos(\theta) = z$  into rectangular coordinates.

**Solution.** (a)  $(2, -1, -2)$ : Since  $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{5}$  and  $\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} = \frac{-1}{2}$ , the point in cylindrical coordinates is  $(\sqrt{5}, 2\pi - \arctan(\frac{1}{2}), -2)$ . Similarly,

$$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-1)^2 + (-2)^2} = 3,$$

$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} = -\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\cos \phi = \frac{z}{\rho} = \frac{2}{3}$  so the point in spherical coordinates is  $(3, 2\pi - \arctan(\frac{1}{2}), \arccos(\frac{2}{3}))$ .

$(2, -2, -3)$ : Since  $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-2)^2} = \sqrt{8}$  and  $\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} = \frac{-2}{2} = -1$ , the point in cylindrical coordinates is  $(\sqrt{8}, 2\pi - \arctan(1), -3) = (\sqrt{8}, \frac{7}{4}\pi, -3)$ . Similarly,

$$\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} = \sqrt{2^2 + (-2)^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{17},$$

$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x} = -1$  and  $\cos \phi = \frac{z}{\rho} = \frac{-3}{\sqrt{17}}$  so the point in spherical coordinates is  $(\sqrt{17}, \frac{7}{4}\pi, \pi - \arccos \frac{3}{\sqrt{17}})$ .

(b) Since  $\cos(\phi) = \frac{z}{\rho} = \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$ ,  $\sin(\theta) = \frac{y}{\rho \sin(\phi)}$   
 $= \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \sqrt{1 - \cos(\phi)^2}} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{z^2}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$ . The equation  $\cos(\phi) = \sin(\theta)$  is  $\frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$  in rectangular coordinates.

(c) Since  $y = r \cos(\theta)$ , the equation  $r \cos(\theta) = z$  is  $y = z$  in rectangular coordinates.

□

- (2) Find the arc-length of the curve  $r(t) = \langle \sqrt{2}t, e^t, e^{-t} \rangle$  when  $0 \leq t \leq \ln(2)$ . (There is a typo in the original problem.  $r(t)$  should be  $\langle \sqrt{2}t, e^t, e^{-t} \rangle$ .)

**Solution.** Given  $r(t) = \langle \sqrt{2}t, e^t, e^{-t} \rangle$ , we have  $r'(t) = \langle \sqrt{2}, e^t, -e^{-t} \rangle$  and  $|r'(t)| = \sqrt{2 + e^{-2t} + e^{2t}} = \sqrt{(e^{-t} + e^t)^2} = e^{-t} + e^t$ . Hence the arc-length of the curve  $r(t) = \langle \sqrt{2}t, e^t, e^{-t} \rangle$  between  $0 \leq t \leq \ln(2)$  is  $\int_0^{\ln(2)} |r'(t)| dt = \int_0^{\ln(2)} (e^{-t} + e^t) dt = -e^{-t} + e^t \Big|_0^{\ln(2)} = -e^{-\ln(2)} + e^{\ln(2)} - (-1 + 1) = -\frac{1}{2} + 2 = \frac{3}{2}$ . Note that  $e^{-\ln(2)} = \frac{1}{e^{\ln(2)}} = \frac{1}{2}$ .

□

- (3) (a) Find parametric equations for the tangent line to the curve  $r(t) = \langle t^3, t, t^3 \rangle$  at the point  $(-1, 1, -1)$ .
- (b) At what point on the curve  $r(t) = \langle t^3, t, t^3 \rangle$  is the normal plane (this is the plane that is perpendicular to the tangent line) parallel to the plane  $24x + 2y + 24z = 3$ ?

*Solution.* (a) Note that  $r(t) = \langle t^3, t, t^3 \rangle$ . We have  $r(-1) = \langle -1, 1, -1 \rangle$ . Taking the derivative of  $r(t)$ , we get  $r'(t) = \langle 3t^2, 1, 3t^3 \rangle$ . Thus the tangent vector at  $t = -1$  is  $r'(-1) = \langle 3, 1, 3 \rangle$ . Therefore parametric equations for the tangent line is  $x = -1 + 3t$ ,  $y = 1 + t$  and  $z = -1 + 3t$ .

(b) The tangent vector at any time  $t$  is  $r'(t) = \langle 3t^2, 1, 3t^3 \rangle$ . The normal vector of the normal plane is parallel to  $r'(t) = \langle 3t^2, 1, 3t^3 \rangle$ .

The normal vector of  $24x + 2y + 24z = 3$  is  $\langle 24, 2, 24 \rangle$ . So  $\frac{24}{3t^2} = \frac{2}{1} = \frac{24}{3t^2}$ . This implies that  $3t^2 = 12$ . So  $t = \pm 2$ . On the curve  $r(t) = \langle t^3, t, t^3 \rangle$ , the normal plane at the points  $r(2) = \langle 8, 2, 8 \rangle$  and  $r(-2) = \langle -8, 2, -8 \rangle$  are parallel to the plane  $24x + 2y + 24z = 3$ .

□

- (4) Find the unit tangent, unit normal, binormal vectors and curvature of the curve  $r(t) = \langle 4t, \cos(3t), \sin(3t) \rangle$ .

*Solution.* Given  $r(t) = \langle 4t, \cos(3t), \sin(3t) \rangle$ , we have  $r'(t) = \langle 4, -3 \sin(3t), 3 \cos(3t) \rangle$  and  $|r'(t)| = \sqrt{16 + 9 \sin^2(3t) + 9 \cos^2(3t)} = \sqrt{25} = 5$ . So the unit tangent vector is  $T(t) = \frac{r'(t)}{|r'(t)|} = \frac{1}{5} \langle 4, -3 \sin(3t), 3 \cos(3t) \rangle$ .

Now  $T'(t) = \frac{1}{5} \langle 0, -9 \cos(3t), -9 \sin(3t) \rangle$  and  $|T'(t)| = \frac{9}{5}$ . So the unit normal vector is  $N(t) = \frac{T'(t)}{|T'(t)|} = \langle 0, -\cos(3t), -\sin(3t) \rangle$ .

The binormal vector is

$$\begin{aligned} B(t) = T(t) \times N(t) &= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ \frac{4}{5} & \frac{-3 \sin(3t)}{5} & \frac{3 \cos(3t)}{5} \\ 0 & -\cos(3t) & -\sin(3t) \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \begin{vmatrix} \frac{-3 \sin(3t)}{5} & \frac{3 \cos(3t)}{5} \\ -\cos(3t) & -\sin(3t) \end{vmatrix} \vec{i} - \begin{vmatrix} \frac{4}{5} & \frac{3 \cos(3t)}{5} \\ 0 & -\sin(3t) \end{vmatrix} \vec{j} + \begin{vmatrix} \frac{4}{5} & \frac{-3 \sin(3t)}{5} \\ 0 & -\cos(3t) \end{vmatrix} \vec{k} \\ &= \left\langle \frac{3}{5}, -\frac{4}{5} \sin(3t), -\frac{4}{5} \cos(3t) \right\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The curvature  $k(t) = \frac{|T'(t)|}{|r'(t)|} = \frac{\frac{9}{5}}{5} = \frac{9}{25}$ .

□

- (5) Find the linear approximation of the function  $f(x, y, z) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$  at  $(1, 2, 2)$  and use it to estimate  $\sqrt{(1.1)^2 + (2.1)^2 + (1.9)^2}$ .

*Solution.* The partial derivatives are  $f_x(x, y, z) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$ ,  $f_y(x, y, z) = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$ ,  
 $f_z(x, y, z) = \frac{z}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$ ,  $f_x(1, 2, 2) = \frac{1}{3}$  and  $f_y(1, 2, 2) = \frac{2}{3}$  and  $f_z(1, 2, 2) = \frac{2}{3}$ .

The linear approximation of  $f(x, y, z)$  at  $(1, 2, 2)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} L(x, y, z) &= f(1, 2, 2) + f_x(1, 2, 2)(x - 1) + f_y(1, 2, 2)(y - 2) + f_z(1, 2, 2)(z - 2) \\ &= 3 + \frac{1}{3}(x - 1) + \frac{2}{3}(y - 2) + \frac{2}{3}(z - 2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $L(1.1, 2.1, 1.9) = 3 + \frac{1}{3}(1.1 - 1) + \frac{2}{3}(2.1 - 2) + \frac{2}{3}(1.9 - 2) = 3 + \frac{1 + 2 - 2}{3} = 3 + \frac{1}{3} \approx 3.033$ . Hence  $\sqrt{(1.1)^2 + (2.1)^2 + (1.9)^2}$  is about 3.033. □

- (6) (a) Find the equation for the plane tangent to the surface  $z = 3x^2 - y^2 + 2x$  at  $(1, -2, 1)$ .
- (b) Find the equation for the plane tangent to the surface  $x^2 + xy^2 + xyz = 4$  at  $(1, 1, 2)$ .
- (c) Find the equation for the line normal to the surface  $x^2 + xy^2 + xyz = 4$  at  $(1, 1, 2)$ .
- (d) Find the points on the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$  where the tangent plane is parallel to the plane  $2x + y - 3z = 2$ .
- (e) Find the points on the sphere  $(x + 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2 + z^2 = 1$  where the tangent plane is parallel to the plane  $2x + 2y - z = 1$ .

*Solution.* (a) Let  $f(x, y) = 3x^2 - y^2 + 2x$ . We have  $f_x = 6x + 2$ ,  $f_y = -2y$ ,  $f_x(1, -2) = 8$  and  $f_y(1, -2) = 4$ . The equation of the tangent plane through the point  $(1, -2, 1)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} z &= f(1, -2) + f_x(1, -2)(x - 1) + f_y(1, -2)(y + 2) \\ &= 1 + 8(x - 1) + 4(y + 2) = 8x + 4y + 1. \end{aligned}$$

(b) In general, the normal vector for the tangent plane to the level surface of  $F(x, y, z) = k$  at the point  $(a, b, c)$  is  $\nabla F(a, b, c)$ .

The surface  $x^2 + xy^2 + xyz = 4$  can be rewritten as  $F(x, y, z) = x^2 + xy^2 + xyz = 4$ ,  $\nabla F(x, y, z) = \langle 2x + y^2 + yz, 2xy + xz, xy \rangle$  and

$\nabla F(1, 1, 2) = \langle 5, 4, 1 \rangle$  Thus the equation of the tangent plane to the surface  $x^2 + xy^2 + xyz = 4$  at the point  $(1, 1, 2)$  is

$\langle 5, 4, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle x - 1, y - 1, z - 2 \rangle = 0$  which yields

$5x - 5 + 4y - 4 + z - 2 = 0$ . It can be simplified as  $5x + 4y + z - 11 = 0$ .

(c) The normal line equation at  $(1, 1, 2)$  is  $x = 1 + 5t$ ,  $y = 1 + 4t$  and  $z = 2 + t$ .

(d) Recall that the equation of the tangent plane at any point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  on the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$  is the equation  $x_0x + y_0y + z_0z = 1$ . (Note that the equation of the tangent plane at any point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  on the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = R^2$  is the equation  $x_0x + y_0y + z_0z = R$ .) The plane  $x_0x + y_0y + z_0z = 1$  is parallel to the plane  $2x + y - 3z = 2$  if their normal vectors are parallel, that is,

$$\frac{x_0}{2} = \frac{y_0}{1} = \frac{z_0}{-3} = c.$$

Hence  $x_0 = 2c$ ,  $y_0 = c$  and  $z_0 = -3c$ . Recall that  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is a point on the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ . Thus  $x_0^2 + y_0^2 + z_0^2 = 4c^2 + c^2 + 9c^2 = 1$ ,  $14c^2 = 1$  and  $c = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}$ . We have  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (\frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{-3}{\sqrt{14}})$  or  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (-\frac{2}{\sqrt{14}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{14}}, \frac{3}{\sqrt{14}})$ .

(e) Recall that the equation of the tangent plane at any point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  on the sphere  $(x + 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2 + z^2 = 1$  is the equation  $(x_0 + 1)(x + 1) + (y_0 - 1)(y - 1) + z_0z = 1$ . The plane  $(x_0 + 1)(x + 1) + (y_0 - 1)(y - 1) + z_0z = 1$  is parallel to the plane  $2x + 2y - z = 1$  if their normal vectors are parallel, that is,

$$\frac{x_0 + 1}{2} = \frac{y_0 - 1}{2} = \frac{z_0}{-1} = c.$$

Hence  $x_0 + 1 = 2c$ ,  $y_0 - 1 = 2c$  and  $z_0 = -c$ . Recall that  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  is a point on the sphere  $(x + 1)^2 + (y - 1)^2 + z^2 = 1$ . Thus  $(x_0 + 1)^2 + (y_0 - 1)^2 + z_0^2 = 4c^2 + 4c^2 + c^2 = 1$ ,  $9c^2 = 1$  and  $c = \pm \frac{1}{3}$ . Recall that  $x_0 = 2c - 1$ ,  $y_0 = 2c + 1$  and  $z_0 = -c$ . We have  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{3}, -\frac{1}{3})$  or  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (-\frac{5}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$ .

□

(7) Find the domain and first partial derivatives of the following functions.

(a)  $f(s, t) = (s^2 + t^2) \sin(s^2 - t^2)$ .

(b)  $g(x, y) = \frac{2x-3y}{x+2y}$ .

(c)  $h(x, y) = \ln\left(\frac{x+y}{x-y}\right)$ .

$$(d) k(x, t) = \frac{(3x+4t)e^{(x^2-t^2)}}{x^2+t^2}.$$

**Solution.** (a)  $f(s, t) = (s^2 + t^2) \sin(s^2 - t^2)$ .

The domain of  $f$  is  $\{(s, t) | s \in R \text{ and } t \in R\}$  We have

$$f_s = 2s \sin(s^2 - t^2) + 2s(s^2 + t^2) \cos(s^2 - t^2)$$

and

$$f_t = 2t \sin(s^2 - t^2) - 2t(s^2 + t^2) \cos(s^2 - t^2).$$

$$(b) g(x, y) = \frac{2x-3y}{x+2y}.$$

The domain of  $g$  is  $\{(x, y) | x + 2y \neq 0\}$

We have

$$g_x = \frac{2(x+2y) - (2x-3y)}{(x+2y)^2} = \frac{7y}{(x+2y)^2}$$

and

$$g_y = \frac{-3(x+2y) - 2(2x-3y)}{(x+2y)^2} = \frac{-7x}{(x+2y)^2}.$$

$$(c) h(x, y) = \ln\left(\frac{x+y}{x-y}\right).$$

The domain of  $g$  is  $\{(x, y) | x - y \neq 0 \text{ and } \frac{x+y}{x-y} > 0\}$

Note that  $h(x, y) = \ln\left(\frac{x+y}{x-y}\right) = \ln(x+y) - \ln(x-y)$ . We have

$$h_x = \frac{1}{x+y} - \frac{1}{x-y} = \frac{-2y}{x^2 - y^2}$$

and

$$h_y = \frac{1}{x+y} + \frac{1}{x-y} = \frac{2x}{x^2 - y^2}.$$

$$(d) k(x, t) = \frac{(3x+4t)e^{(x^2-t^2)}}{x^2+t^2}.$$

The domain of  $k$  is  $\{(x, t) | x^2 + t^2 \neq 0\}$ , that is,  $\{(x, t) | (x, t) \neq (0, 0)\}$ .

Instead of finding its derivative by brutal force, we will use the logarithm differentiation.

Note that  $\ln(k(x, t)) = \ln\left(\frac{(3x+4t)e^{(x^2-t^2)}}{x^2+t^2}\right) = \ln(3x+4t) + x^2 - t^2 - \ln(x^2+t^2)$ . Thus  $(\ln(k(x, t)))_x = (\ln(3x+4t) + x^2 - t^2 - \ln(x^2+t^2))_x$ ,

$$\frac{k(x, t)_x}{k(x, t)} = \frac{3}{3x+4t} + 2x - \frac{2x}{x^2+t^2}$$

and

$$k_x = \left(\frac{3}{3x+4t} + 2x - \frac{2x}{x^2+t^2}\right) \frac{(3x+4t)e^{(x^2-t^2)}}{x^2+t^2},$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{k_t}{k} = \frac{4}{3x + 4t} - 2t - \frac{2t}{x^2 + t^2}$$

and

$$k_t = \left( \frac{4}{3x + 4t} - 2t - \frac{2t}{x^2 + t^2} \right) \frac{(3x + 4t)e^{(x^2 - t^2)}}{x^2 + t^2}.$$

□

(8) (a) Verify that  $u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}$  is a solution of  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz} = 0$ .

(b) Show that  $v(x, t) = f(x + 2t) + g(x - 2t)$  is a solution of the wave equation  $v_{tt} = 4v_{xx}$ .

**Solution.** (a) We have  $u = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ ,

$$u_x = -x(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}}, \quad u_{xx} = -(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} - 3x^2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{5}{2}}.$$

The expression is symmetric in  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$ . Hence we have

$$u_{yy} = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} - 3y^2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{5}{2}}$$

and

$$u_{zz} = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} - 3z^2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{5}{2}}.$$

Thus  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} + u_{zz} = 3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} - 3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{5}{2}} = 3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} - 3(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-\frac{3}{2}} = 0$ .

(b) Using  $v(x, t) = f(x + 2t) + g(x - 2t)$  and chain rule, we have

$$v_x = f'(x + 2t) + g'(x - 2t), \quad v_{xx} = f''(x + 2t) + g''(x - 2t),$$

$$v_t = 2f'(x + 2t) - 2g'(x - 2t), \quad v_{tt} = 4f''(x + 2t) + 4g''(x - 2t).$$

$$\text{Thus } v_{tt} - 4v_{xx} = 4f''(x + 2t) + 4g''(x - 2t) - 4(f''(x + 2t) + g''(x - 2t)) = 0.$$

□

(9) Use implicit differentiation to find  $z_x$  and  $z_y$  if  $xyz = e^{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$ .

**Solution.** Assume  $z = z(x, y)$ , we have  $xyz(x, y) = e^{x^2 + y^2 + (z(x, y))^2}$ .

$$\text{So } (xyz(x, y))_x = (e^{x^2 + y^2 + (z(x, y))^2})_x,$$

$$yz(x, y) + xyz_x = e^{x^2 + y^2 + (z(x, y))^2} (2x + 2zz_x),$$

$$xyz_x - 2e^{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} zz_x = 2e^{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} x - yz$$

$$\text{and } z_x = \frac{2e^{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} x - yz}{xy - 2e^{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} z}.$$

$$\text{Similarly, } (xyz(x, y))_y = (e^{x^2 + y^2 + (z(x, y))^2})_y,$$

$$xz(x, y) + xyz_y = e^{x^2 + y^2 + (z(x, y))^2} (2y + 2zz_y),$$

$$xyz_y - 2e^{x^2+y^2+z^2} z z_y = 2e^{x^2+y^2+z^2} y - xz$$

$$\text{and } z_y = \frac{2e^{x^2+y^2+z^2} y - xz}{xy - 2e^{x^2+y^2+z^2} y}.$$

□

(10) Suppose that over a certain region of plane the electrical potential is given by  $V(x, y) = x^2 - xy + y^2$ .

(a) Find  $\nabla V(x, y)$ .

(b) Find the direction of the greatest decrease in the electrical potential at the point  $(1, 1)$ . What is the magnitude of the greatest decrease?

(c) Find the direction of the greatest increase in the electrical potential at the point  $(1, 1)$ . What is the magnitude of the greatest increase?

(d) Find a direction at the point  $(1, 1)$  in which the temperature does not increase or decrease.

(e) Find the rate of change of  $V$  at  $(1, 1)$  in the direction  $\langle 3, -4 \rangle$ .

*Solution.* (a) We have

$$\nabla V(x, y) = \langle V_x(x, y), V_y(x, y) \rangle = \langle (x^2 - xy + y^2)_x, (x^2 - xy + y^2)_y \rangle = \langle 2x - y, -x + 2y \rangle$$

(b) Since

$$\nabla V(x, y) = \langle 2x - y, -x + 2y \rangle$$

the direction of the greatest decrease in electrical potential is

$$-\nabla V(1, 1) = -\langle 1, 1 \rangle$$

and the magnitude is  $-\|\nabla V(1, 1)\| = -\sqrt{2}$ .

(c) The direction of greatest increase in electrical potential is

$$\nabla V(1, 1) = \langle 1, 1 \rangle$$

and the magnitude is  $\|\nabla V(1, 1)\| = \sqrt{2}$ .

(d) If  $\vec{u}$  is a direction at which the electrical potential does not increase or decrease, then  $D_{\vec{u}}V(1, 1) = \nabla V(1, 1) \cdot \vec{u} = 0$ . This is equivalent to saying that  $\vec{u}$  is perpendicular to  $\nabla V(1, 1)$ . If  $\vec{u} = u_1 \vec{i} + u_2 \vec{j}$  then we have  $0 = \langle 1, 1 \rangle \cdot \vec{u} = u_1 + u_2$ . We may choose  $\vec{u} = \langle 1, -1 \rangle$ . Therefore, the electrical potential does not change in the direction  $\langle 1, -1 \rangle$ .

(e) The unit vector in the direction  $\langle 3, -4 \rangle$  is  $\vec{u} = \frac{1}{5}\langle 3, -4 \rangle$ . Thus the rate of change of  $V$  at  $(1, 1)$  in the direction  $\langle 3, -4 \rangle$  is

$$\nabla V(1, 1) \cdot \vec{u} = \langle 1, 1 \rangle \cdot \frac{1}{5}\langle 3, -4 \rangle = -\frac{1}{5}.$$

□

(11) Find the local maxima, local minima and saddle points of the following functions. Decide if the local maxima or minima is global maxima or minima. Explain.

(a)  $f(x, y) = 3x^2y + y^3 - 3x^2 - 3y^2$

(b)  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^3 - 3xy$

(c)  $f(x, y) = xy + \ln(x) + y^2 - 10, x > 0$

*Solution.* (a) We have  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 6xy - 6x$ ,  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 3x^2 + 3y^2 - 6y$ . Thus  $(x, y)$  is a stationary point if  $6x(y - 1) = 0$ ,  $3(x^2 + y^2 - 2y) = 0$ . From the first equation, we have  $x = 0$  or  $y = 1$ . Suppose  $x = 0$ , we have  $y = 0$  or  $y = 2$  from the second equation. Suppose  $y = 1$ , we have  $x = 1$  or  $x = -1$  from the second equation. Thus the stationary points of  $f$  are  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(0, 2)$ ,  $(1, 1)$  and  $(-1, 1)$ .

The second order partial derivatives are  $f_{xx} = 6y - 6$ ,  $f_{xy} = f_{yx} = 6x$  and  $f_{yy} = 6y - 6$ .

Thus the hessian matrix

$$[D^2f(x, y)]_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 6y - 6 & 6x \\ 6x & 6y - 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

At  $(0, 0)$ , the hessian matrix is

$$[D^2f(0, 0)]_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} -6 & 0 \\ 0 & -6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have  $f_{xx}(0, 0) = -6 < 0$  and  $D = f_{xx}(0, 0)f_{yy}(0, 0) - (f_{xy}(0, 0))^2 = 36 > 0$ . This implies that  $D^2f(0, 0)$  is negative definite. Thus  $(0, 0)$  is a local maximizer with local minimum  $f(0, 0) = 0$ .

At  $(0, 2)$ , the hessian matrix is

$$[D^2f(0, 2)]_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$



We have  $f_{xx}(0, 2) = 6 > 0$  and  $D = f_{xx}(0, 2)f_{yy}(0, 2) - (f_{xy}(0, 2))^2 = 36 > 0$  This implies that  $D^2f(0, 2)$  positive definite. Thus  $(0, 2)$  is a local minimizer with local minimum  $f(0, 2) = -4$ .

At  $(1, 1)$ , the hessian matrix is

$$[D^2f(1, 1)]_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 6 \\ 6 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We have  $f_{xx}(1, 1) = 0$  and  $D = f_{xx}(1, 1)f_{yy}(1, 1) - (f_{xy}(1, 1))^2 = -36 < 0$  This implies that  $D^2f(1, 1)$  is indefinite. Thus  $(1, 1)$  is a saddle point.

At  $(-1, 1)$ , the hessian matrix is

$$[D^2f(-1, 1)]_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -6 \\ -6 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We have  $f_{xx}(-1, 1) = 0$  and  $D = f_{xx}(-1, 1)f_{yy}(-1, 1) - (f_{xy}(-1, 1))^2 = -36 < 0$ . This implies that  $D^2f(-1, 1)$  is indefinite. Thus  $(-1, 1)$  is a saddle point.

(b) The system of equations

$$f_x(x, y) = 2x - 3y = 0 \quad f_y(x, y) = 3y^2 - 3x = 0$$

implies that  $x = \frac{3}{2}y$  and  $3(y^2 - \frac{3}{2}y) = 2y(y - \frac{3}{2}) = 0$ . Thus,  $(0, 0)$  and  $(9/4, 3/2)$  are the critical points. We also have  $f_{xx} = 2$ ,  $f_{xy} = f_{yx} = -3$  and  $f_{yy} = 6y$ .

$$(D^2f(x, y)) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -3 & 6y \end{pmatrix}$$

Since

$$D = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = (2)(6y) - (-3)^2 = 12y - 9,$$

$$\text{Det}(D^2f(0, 0)) = -9 < 0,$$

$$\text{Det}(D^2f(9/4, 3/2)) = 18 > 0,$$

the second derivative test establishes that  $f$  has a saddle point at  $(0, 0)$  and a local minimum at  $(9/4, 3/2)$ . Because  $\lim_{y \rightarrow -\infty} f(0, y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow -\infty} y^3 = -\infty$ , we see that  $(9/4, 3/2)$  is not a global minimum.

(c) Solving the system of equations

$$f_x(x, y) = y + \frac{1}{x} = 0 \quad f_y(x, y) = x + 2y = 0,$$

we see that  $x = -2y$  and  $y - \frac{1}{2y} = \frac{2y^2 - 1}{2y} = 0$ . Hence, the only critical point in the region  $x > 0$  is  $(\sqrt{2}, -1/\sqrt{2})$ . We also have  $f_{xx} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$ ,  $f_{xy} = f_{yx} = 1$  and

$$f_{yy} = 2.$$

$$(D^2 f(x, y)) = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{x^2} & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$D = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = \left(-\frac{1}{x^2}\right)(2) - (2)^2 < 0$$

the second derivative indicates that  $(\sqrt{2}, -1/\sqrt{2})$   $f$  is a saddle point. □

(12) Find rigorously the global maximum/minimum and global maximizer/minimizer of the following functions subject to the given constraint.

(a)  $f(x, y) = x^2y^2 - 2x - 2y$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ .

(b)  $f(x, y) = x^2y^2 - 2x - 2y$ ,  $0 \leq x$ ,  $0 \leq y$  and  $x + y \leq 1$ .

**Solution.** (a) Let  $S$  denote the region  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ . Since  $f(x, y) = x^2y^2 - 2x - 2y$ , we have  $\nabla f(x, y) = (2xy^2 - 2, 2x^2y - 2)$ . and hence the critical point is  $(1, 1)$ . In the following, we use the notation  $\partial E$  to denote the boundary of a set  $E$ . The boundary  $\partial S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3 \cup S_4$  where  $S_1 = \{(x, 0) | 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{(0, y) | 0 \leq y \leq 1\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{(x, 1) | 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$  and  $S_4 = \{(1, y) | 0 \leq y \leq 1\}$ .

The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_1$  is  $f(x, 0) = -2x$  where  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(x, 0) = -2$ . Hence there is no stationary point on  $S_1$ .

The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_2$  is  $f(0, y) = x^2 - 2x$  where  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(0, y) = -2$ . Hence there is no critical point on  $S_2$ .

The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_3$  is  $f(x, 1) = x^2 - 2x - 2$  where  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(x, 0) = 2x - 2$ . Hence there is no critical point inside  $S_3$  ( $x = 1$  is on the boundary of  $S_3$ ).

The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_4$  is  $f(1, y) = y^2 - 2y - 2$  where  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(0, y) = 2y - 2$ . Hence there is no critical point inside  $S_4$  ( $y = 1$  is on the boundary of  $S_4$ ).

Note that  $\partial S_1 \cup \partial S_2 \cup \partial S_3 \cup \partial S_4 = \{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)\}$ .

From the computation about, we need to compute the following values of  $f$  at the following points  $\{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)\}$ .

We have

$f(1, 1) = -3$ ,  $f(1, 0) = f(0, 1) = -2$ ,  $f(0, 0) = 0$ . Hence, the maximum is  $f(0, 0) = 0$  and the minimum is  $f(1, 1) = -3$ .

(b) Let  $S$  denote the region  $0 \leq x$ ,  $0 \leq y$  and  $x + y \leq 1$ . Since  $f(x, y) = x^2y^2 - 2x - 2y$ , we have  $\nabla f(x, y) = (2xy^2 - 2, 2x^2y - 2)$ . and hence the critical point is  $(1, 1)$ . The boundary  $\partial S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3$  where  $S_1 = \{(x, 0) | 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$ ,  $S_2 = \{(0, y) | 0 \leq y \leq 1\}$ ,  $S_3 = \{(x, y) | 0 \leq x \leq 1, x + y = 1\}$ .

The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_1$  is  $f(x, 0) = -2x$  where  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(x, 0) = -2$ . Hence there is no critical point on  $S_1$ .

The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_2$  is  $f(0, y) = x^2 - 2x$  where  $0 \leq y \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(0, y) = -2$ . Hence there is no critical point on  $S_2$ .

Note that  $x + y = 1$  on  $S_3$ . So  $y = 1 - x$  on  $S_3$ . The restriction of  $f$  to  $S_3$  is  $f(x, 1 - x) = x^2(1 - x)^2 - 2x - 2(1 - x) = x^2(1 - x)^2 - 2$  where  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ . Then  $f'(x, 1 - x) = 2x(1 - x)^2 - 2x^2(1 - x)$ . Hence the critical point on  $S_3$  is determined by  $2x(1 - x)^2 - 2x^2(1 - x) = 0$ , i.e.  $2x(x^2 - 2x + 1) - 2x^2 + 2x^3 = 2x^3 - 4x^2 + 2x - 2x^2 + 2x^3 = 4x^3 - 6x^2 + 2x = 2x(2x^2 - 3x + 1) = 2x(x - 1)(2x - 1) = 0$ . So  $x = 0$ ,  $x = 1$  or  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ . Note that  $y = 1 - x$ . We have  $(x, y) = (0, 1), (1, 0)$  or  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ .

Note that  $\partial S_1 \cup \partial S_2 \cup \partial S_3 \cup \partial S_4 = \{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1)\}$ .

From the computation about, we need to compute the following values of  $f$  at the following points  $\{(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1), (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})\}$ .

We have

$f(1, 1) = -3$ ,  $f(1, 0) = f(0, 1) = -2$ ,  $f(0, 0) = 0$  and  $f(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{1}{16} - 1 = \frac{15}{16}$ . Hence, the maximum is  $f(0, 0) = 0$  and the minimum is  $f(1, 1) = -3$ .

□